

Application No.: 10/805,933

Docket No.: JCLA10375-D

REMARKSPresent Status of the Application

The Office Action rejects Claims 5-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter APA) in view of Suwa et al. (U.S. 6,803,659 B2). Further, the Office Action objects to being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claim 5 is amended by incorporating limitations in the original claim 7, and claim 7 is thus canceled. Hence, claims 5-6 and 8 remain pending in the present application. Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter. Thus, reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action rejects Claims 5-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter APA) in view of Suwa et al. (U.S. 6,803,659 B2). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as it applies to claims 5-6 and 8 for at least the reasons set forth below.

Since the Office Action mentions that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 5) and any intervening claims, Applicant amends the independent claim 5 by incorporating all of the limitations of claim 7, and claim 7 is thus canceled. Therefore, the independent claim 5, as

Application No.: 10/805,933

Docket No.: JCLA10375-D

amended, is allowable over APA in view of Suwa et al. Consequently, the dependent claims 6 and 8 dependent on claim 5 are allowable as a matter of law.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the grounds of rejection have been addressed and the rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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Application No.: 10/805,933

Docket No.: JCLA10375-B

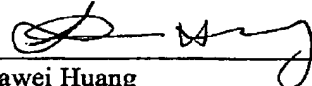
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 5-6 and 8 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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